

Application No.: 09/864,298
Preliminary Amendment
Reply to Office Action dated September 8, 2005
January 9, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An image data administration apparatus comprising:

a data communication unit connected to at least one terminal equipment of a customer and at least one photographic printer via a network;

an image data memory for memorizing a plurality of image data with respect to each customer transmitted from the terminal equipment;

an image information memory for memorizing a keyword associated with and transmitted with each image data;

an image data selector for selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer is received; [[and]]

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an index image data processor for forming an index image data in which a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the image data selected by the image data selector are arranged in a predetermined order and for outputting the index image data via the data communication unit to at least one of the terminal equipment of the customer and the photographic printer;

a customer ID processor for receiving a customer ID transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer;

a customer password memory for memorizing a customer password with respect to each customer ID;

a publication password memory for memorizing a publication password with respect to each customer ID; and

an access controller for allowing registration, surveying, printing and erasing of image data when the customer password is received, and for allowing only the surveying and printing of the image data when the publication password is received.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The image data administration apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising: a print

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order processor for forming a print order file including printing conditions instructed by the customer and for transmitting the image data and the index image data with the print order file so as to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The image data administration apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the image information memory further memorizing date information of a date on which the image of the image data is taken, and the plurality of thumbnail images are arranged with respect to date.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The image data administration apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein

the image data selector further has a function of selecting at least one secondary image data among the image data having the specific keyword in accordance with a selection made by the customer when the data communication unit further receives an instruction data regarding the selection from the terminal

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equipment of the customer; and

the index image data processor renews the index image data in accordance the selection made by the customer incorporating the secondary image data and outputs renewed index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The image data administration apparatus in accordance with claim 4, further comprising:

a print order processor for forming a print order file including printing conditions instructed by the customer and for transmitting the image data and the renewed index image data with the print order file so as to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): An image data administration system comprising an image data administration apparatus, at least one photographic printer and a network for communicating the image data administration apparatus and the photographic printer to at

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least one terminal equipment of a customer, wherein

the image data administration apparatus includes:

a first data communication unit connected to the network
so as to communicate with the terminal equipment and the
photographic printer;

an image data memory for memorizing a plurality of image
data with respect to each customer transmitted from the terminal
equipment;

an image information memory for memorizing a keyword
associated with and transmitted with each image data;

a first image data selector for selecting a first set of
image data associated with a specific keyword from the image data
memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword
designated by and transmitted from the terminal equipment of the
customer is received;

a first index image data processor for forming a first
index image data in which a plurality of thumbnail images
corresponding to the first set of image data are arranged in a
predetermined order and for outputting the first index image data

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to the terminal equipment of the customer via the first data communication unit;

a second image data selector for selecting from the image data at least one secondary image data having the specific keyword in accordance with a selection data transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer; [[and]]

a second index image data processor for renewing the first index image data to incorporate the secondary selected image data in accordance with the selection by the customer and for outputting renewed index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer; [[and]]

a print order processor for forming a print order file including printing conditions instructed by the customer and for transmitting the image data and the renewed index image data with the print order file and for outputting them to the photographic printer via the first data communication unit when the second index image data are confirmed by the customer;

a customer ID processor for receiving a customer ID transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer;

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a customer password memory for memorizing a customer password with respect to each customer ID;

a publication password memory for memorizing a publication password with respect to each customer ID; and

an access controller for allowing registration, surveying, printing and erasing of image data when the customer password is received, and for allowing only the surveying and printing of the image data when the publication password is received; and

the photographic printer includes:

a second data communication unit for receiving the image data and the renewed index image data with the print order file from the image data administration apparatus;

an exposing unit for exposing a sensitized surface of a photographic paper by using the image data and the index image data; and

a developing unit for developing the exposed photographic paper for making photographic prints of images corresponding to the image data and for printing an index print of thumbnail images corresponding to the index image data.

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Claim 7 (Original): The image data administration system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the terminal equipment of the customer has a monitor display, and a data communication unit of the image data administration apparatus transmits the index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer to be displayed on the monitor display.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The image data administration system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the photographic printer includes a control unit for calculating forecasted termination time when all the photographic prints instructed in the print order file will be completed, and the second data communication unit transmits the forecasted termination time to the first data communication unit of the image data administration apparatus.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The image data administration system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the terminal equipment of the customer has a monitor display, and the first data

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communication unit of the image data administration apparatus transmits the calculating forecasted termination time to the terminal equipment of the customer to be displayed on the monitor display.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The image data administration system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the image date memory further memorizes date information of a date on which the picture of the image data is photographed and the plurality of thumbnail images are arranged with respect to he the dates.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A method for administrating image data comprising the steps of:

memorizing image data in a specific folder in an image data memory of an image data administration apparatus in accordance with a ~~customer's~~ customer ID associated with each image data, when the image data are transmitted from a terminal equipment of a customer communicated with the image data administration apparatus via a network;

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memorizing a keyword associated with and transmitted with each image data in a specific folder in an image information memory of the image data administration apparatus;

selecting image data associated with a specific keyword from the image data memorized in the image data memory when the specific keyword is transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer;

forming an index image data in which a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the selected image data are arranged in a predetermined order; [[and]]

outputting the index image data to at least one of the terminal equipment of the customer and a photographic printer;

memorizing a customer password with respect to each customer ID;

memorizing a publication password with respect to each customer ID; and

controlling access to the image data to allow registration, surveying, printing and erasing of the image data when the customer password is received, and to allow only the surveying and printing of the image data when the publication password is received.

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Claim 12 (Previously presented): The method for administrating image data in accordance with claim 11, further comprising the step of forming a print order file including printing conditions instructed by the customer and for transmitting the image data and the index image data with the print order file to the photographic printer so as to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method for administrating image data in accordance with claim 11, wherein the step for memorizing a keyword, further memorizes a date information of a date on which a picture of the image data is taken and a predetermined object information with respect to an object in the image.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The method for administrating image data in accordance with claim 11, further

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comprising the steps of:

secondarily selecting at least one image data from the image data associated with the specific keyword in accordance with a selection by the customer when an instruction data for the selection is transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer;

renewing the index image data by incorporating the secondarily selected image data;

and outputting the renewed index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method for administrating image data in accordance with claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

forming a print order file including printing conditions instructed by the customer when a confirming data for confirming the renewed index image data by the customer is received; and

transmitting the image data corresponding to the images included in the renewed index image data and the renewed index

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image data with the print order file to the photographic printer so as to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium comprising a program for administrating image data comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one image data and with each image data which are transmitted from a terminal equipment of a customer via a network;

memorizing the image data in a specific folder in an image data memory corresponding to a ~~customer's~~ customer ID associated with each image data;

memorizing the data of the keyword in a specific folder in an image information memory;

receiving an instruction designating a specific keyword and transmitted from the terminal equipment of the customer;

selecting image data associated with the specific keyword from

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the image data memorized in the image data memory;

forming an index image data in which a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the selected image data are arranged in a predetermined order; [[and]]

outputting the index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer;

memorizing a customer password with respect to each customer ID;

memorizing a publication password with respect to each customer ID; and

controlling access to the image data to allow registration, surveying, printing and erasing of the image data when the customer password is received, and to allow only the surveying and printing of the image data when the publication password is received.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium including the program for administrating image data in accordance with claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

receiving from the terminal equipment of the customer a

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instruction data including confirmation of change of the index
image data;

selecting from the image data in the memory at least one
secondary image data associated with the specific keyword in
accordance with the instruction data;

renewing the index image data in accordance with the
instruction data incorporating the secondary image data; and

outputting the renewed index image data to the terminal
equipment of the customer.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium
including the program for administrating image data in accordance
with claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a from the terminal equipment of the customer
instruction data including confirmation with respect to the index
image data and order with respect to printing of photographic
prints;

forming a print order file including instructions to a
photographic printer in accordance with the instruction data; and

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transmitting the image data and the index image data with the print order file to the photographic printer so as to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium including the program for administrating image data in accordance with claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

receiving from the terminal equipment of the customer a instruction data including confirmation or instruction of change with respect to the index image data;

selecting from the image data at least one secondary image data having the specific keyword in accordance with the instruction data;

renewing the index image data in accordance with the instruction data transmitted by the customer to incorporate the secondary image data;

forming a print order file including printing conditions in accordance with the instruction data; and

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transmitting the image data and the index image data with the print order file to the photographic printer so as to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium recording a program for administrating image data, wherein the program ~~comprising~~ comprises the steps of:

receiving image data and a data of a keyword associated with each image data which are transmitted from a terminal equipment of a customer via a network;

memorizing the image data in a specific folder in an image data memory corresponding to a ~~customer's~~ customer ID attached with each image data;

memorizing the ~~[[the]]~~ data of the keyword a specific folder in an image information memory;

receiving an instruction designating a specific keyword from the terminal equipment of the customer;

selecting image data associated with the specific keyword in

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the image data memorized in the image data memory;

forming an index image data in which a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to the selected image data are arranged in a predetermined order; [[and]]

outputting the index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer;

memorizing a customer password with respect to each customer ID;

memorizing a publication password with respect to each customer ID; and

controlling access to the image data to allow registration, surveying, printing and erasing of the image data when the customer password is received, and to allow only the surveying and printing of the image data when the publication password is received.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium recording the program for administrating image data in accordance with claim 20, wherein the program further ~~comprising~~ comprises the steps of:

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receiving from the terminal equipment of the customer an instruction data including an instruction to change the index image data;

selecting from the image data at least one secondary image data associated with the specific keyword designated by the instruction data;

renewing the index image data in accordance with the instruction data from the customer in incorporating the secondary image data; and

outputting the renewed index image data to the terminal equipment of the customer.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium recording the program for administrating image data in accordance with claim 21, wherein the program further ~~comprising~~ comprises the steps of:

receiving from the terminal equipment of the customer a instruction data including confirmation with respect to the index image data and order with respect to printing of photographic

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prints;

forming a print order file including instructions to a photographic printer in accordance with the instruction data; and transmitting the image data and the index image data with the print order file to the photographic printer so as to make the printer print photographic prints in accordance with the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium recording the program for administrating image data in accordance with claim 20, wherein the program further ~~comprising~~ comprises the steps of:

receiving a instruction data including confirmation or instruction of change with respect to the index image data;

selecting at least one image data having the specific keyword from the image data in accordance with the instruction data;

renewing the index image data in accordance with the instruction data from the customer incorporating the secondary image data;

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forming a print order file including instructions to a photographic printer in accordance with the instruction data; and transmitting the image data and the index image data with the print order file to the photographic printer so as to make the printer print photographic prints corresponding to the image data and an index print corresponding to the index image data.